

DIRECTIONS FOR ISSUING PUBLIC NOTICE - MtBE DETECTION IN WATER

Notice shall be provided as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days after the system learns of the MtBE exceedance. Proof of public notice, as described below, shall be completed and sent to DES within 10 days of providing public notice.

A COMMUNITY water system *must always* notify consumers by mailing or directly delivering the public notice to each customer receiving a bill and to other consumers to whom water is delivered.

IF persons regularly served by the system would not normally be reached by the mailing or direct delivery methods described above, the water system shall also use *at least one* of the following notification methods.

1. Publication of the notice for 3 consecutive days in a daily newspaper of general circulation that serves the area of the water system.
2. Posting the notice in public places served by the water system. [Posted notices must remain in place for as long as the violation persists, but in no case for less than 7 days, even if the violation is resolved.]
3. Furnishing a copy of the notice to radio and television stations that broadcast in the area served by the water system.

A NON-COMMUNITY water system shall notify consumers by posting the notice in conspicuous locations throughout the distribution system frequented by persons served by the system, or by mailing or direct delivery to each customer and consumer. [Posted notices must remain in place for as long as the exceedance persists, but in no case for less than 7 days, even if the exceedance has ended.] **IF** other persons regularly served by the system would not normally be reached by the posting, mailing, or direct delivery methods described above, the water system shall also publish the notice for 3 consecutive days in a daily newspaper of general circulation that serves the area of the water system.

Additional methods (*e.g.*, electronic mail, delivery of multiple copies to hospitals and schools) may be needed since the notice must be provided in a manner reasonably calculated to reach all persons served.

The language in *italics* on the reverse side must remain unchanged. ***This language is mandatory.***

Submitting Proof of Public Notice to DES

Within **10 days** after issuing the notice, the owner of the water system shall provide proof of public notice to DES. Proof of public notice shall consist of a copy of the notice that was distributed or posted, or each of the 3 full pages of newspaper articles, **and** the following completed certification:

CERTIFICATION

I hereby affirm public notice has been provided to consumers in accordance with the delivery, content, and deadline requirements in NH Admin. Rule Env-Ws 351, as outlined above.

First Delivery Method Used: _____ Date: _____

Second Delivery Method Used (IF needed): _____ Date: _____

Signature of Water System Owner Water System Name Date

Proof of public notification should be faxed to (603) 271-5171 OR mailed to:

Chemical Monitoring Section
Department of Environmental Services
Water Supply Engineering Bureau
29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

NOTICE OF METHYL TERTIARY-BUTYL ETHER (MtBE) DETECTION IN WATER

The _____ water system is required to monitor your drinking water for volatile organic compounds on a regular basis. Methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MtBE), a gasoline additive, was detected in the sample(s) collected on _____ at a level of _____. The maximum contaminant level (MCL) for MtBE is 13
(date) (level and units)

parts per billion (ppb). However, legislation passed in 1999 requires public water systems to notify their customers if MtBE levels are greater than 5 ppb. Since our level exceeds 5 ppb, we are providing you with this notice.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. The Department of Environmental Services (DES) sets drinking water standards and has determined based on advice from its Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health that MtBE is a health concern at certain levels of exposure. This organic chemical is used as an additive in the manufacture of reformulated gasoline as an oxygenate to help improve combustion efficiency and reduce toxicity of air emissions. It generally gets into water by improper handling or disposal of gasoline or leaking gasoline storage tanks. DES has adopted a MCL for MtBE of 13 ppb. Some people who drink water containing MtBE in excess of the MCL over many years could experience problems with their kidneys and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Please note that our system's results do not currently exceed 13 ppb.

What should I do?

It is not necessary to use alternate water; however, if you have specific health concerns, please contact your health care professional. General health related questions may be directed to Dave Gordon of the DES Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health at (603) 271-4608.

Steps We Are Taking: We are continuing to monitor MtBE levels on a quarterly basis. We will inform you if the results exceed 13 ppb.

For more information, please contact _____ of _____
(name of contact) (system or company)

at _____ or _____
(telephone #) (address)

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

EPA #: _____ Date distributed: _____